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EXAMINER

MARTIN, LAURA E

ART UNIT

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koike et al. (US 2002/0192003 A1) in view of Kupcho et al. (US 5670995 A).

Koike et al. disclose the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: a photofinishing system comprising a processor (figure 1, element 16), a printer (figure 2, element 46), means for feeding print media to the printer from a roll of the print media (figure 2, elements 62 and 63), and drier means (figure 2, element 50) coupled to the printer; the processor being arranged to generate a drive signal that is representative of a photographic image (figure 1, element 42 and 44), the printer being coupled to the processor and being arranged to process the drive signal and effect printing of the photographic image on the print media [0109] – [0110]; and the drier means being arranged to receive printed media directly from the printer, to transport the printed media from the printer and, in use, to effect drying of the printed media during transportation of the media (figure 2) and [0082].

As per claim 2: the processor comprises a digital processor (digital is inherent in the definition of a printer processor) which is arranged to receive digitized data that is

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representative of a photographic image and to process the data in a manner to generate a printer drive signal that is representative of the photographic image [0109] – [0110], and the printer is arranged to process the drive signal and effect page-width printing of the photographic image on the print media as it is fed directly to the printer from the roll (figure 2, element 46 - printer is pagewidth).

As per claim 15: the drier means comprises: a) guide rollers for transporting the print media through the drier means (figure 2, elements 63, 76, and 78), and b) at least one blower arranged to direct drying air onto at least one face of print media as it is transported through the dryer means [0082].

Koike et al. do not disclose the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: opposing printheads for printing on both faces of the print media such that there are images on both faces of the print media.

As per claim 15: more than one blower arranged to direct air onto two sides of the print media.

Kupcho et al. disclose the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: opposing printheads for printing on both faces of the print media such that there are images on both faces of the print media (figure 3, elements 124a and 124b and column 3, lines 20-30).

As per claim 15: opposing printheads printing on opposite sides of the print media (figure 3, elements 124a and 124b). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art that if the photofinishing system taught by Koike et al. were to be

modified with the printhead structure taught by Kupcho et al., then the modified structure would have two blowing sections.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the photofinishing system taught by Koike et al. with the printhead assembly taught by Kupcho et al. in order to provide for quicker printing and to reduce the risk of printing errors due to smudging.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, and 15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAURA E. MARTIN whose telephone number is (571)272-2160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. E. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2853

/Manish S. Shah/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2853